

Application No.: 09/280,609

D&W Docket No.: 6402

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 11 and 21 have been amended, claims 1-10 and 24-40 have been canceled, and claims 41-53 have been added. Claims 11-23 and 41-53 are currently pending in this application. The applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on May 29, 2003, in which proposed new claims were discussed. The principal arguments presented in the interview were the same arguments presented below.

Claims 11 and 21 have been amended to more clearly define the invention and to clarify the distinctions between the claims and the cited references. The amendments were not made to narrow the claims or to distinguish over the cited references. Likewise, new claims 41-53 are added to better define patentable features of the present invention.

In the office action, the previously-pending claims were rejected over Puri, Raz, and Christeson. Puri discloses a software tool for assisting in developing product configurations on a client computer system. Puri discloses collecting and processing information on a client, and in one embodiment collecting pricing information from a central database over a network. Raz discloses a client-server system including a resource manager or router, which directs requests from clients to a correct database or application. Finally, Christeson discloses a client-server system for generating price quotes. The system prompts a user at a client to select product features and then accesses multiple databases as needed to provide a complete price quote.

Independent claim 11 requires "downloading to the client limited configuration information that is a subset of the full set of configuration information and limited configuration programs that are a subset of the full configuration program, wherein the limited configuration information and limited configuration programs are determined based on the desired product." None of the cited references disclose or suggest extracting and sending limited configuration information and limited configuration programs in response to the selected product. Claim 11 further requires that the viability of the technical configuration specified at the client be "preliminarily checked at the client using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs." Again, none of the cited references disclose or suggest performing a preliminary check at the client based on limited information. Accordingly, claim 11 distinguishes over the cited references and stands in allowable form. Likewise, claims 12-23 and

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41-42, which depend from claim 11 and contain all limitations of claim 11, stand in allowable form for the same reasons as does claim 11.


Independent claim 43 requires "transmitting a limited configuration engine to the client in response to the identification, the limited engine corresponding to the desired vehicle and including a limited set of option rules." None of the cited references disclose or suggest sending a limited configuration engine or a limited set of option rules to the client in response to the selected product. Claim 43 further requires "receiving a vehicle configuration from the client, wherein the client has performed a successful preliminary viability check of the vehicle configuration, using the limited set of option rules." Again, none of the cited references disclose or suggest performing a successful preliminary viability check of a vehicle configuration. Accordingly, claim 43 distinguishes over the cited references and stands in allowable form. Likewise, claims 44-53, which depend from claim 43 and contain all limitations of claim 43, stand in allowable form for the same reasons as does claim 43.

This application now stands in allowable form and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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